

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

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## Government Acts to Curb Rising Prices

**OPA Starts Campaign to Roll Back Prices of Certain Food Items**

### SUBSIDY PLAN IS ADOPTED

**But Congress Must Deal with Taxation Before Inflation Can Be Safely Checked**

Three facts, closely related to each other, call for the immediate, thoughtful consideration of the Roosevelt administration, Congress, and the American people. One of these facts is that prices have been rising steadily in spite of efforts to hold them down. Another fact is that wages have also been rising. The third fact is that food is not being produced in sufficient quantities to satisfy the needs of the American public, the armed services, and our Allies, and that there is a serious shortage of several essential foods.

In the light of these facts, it is clear that we must deal with a difficult threefold problem. It is necessary (a) that prices paid to farmers for essential food products be high enough so that the farmers can afford to produce them; (b) that retail prices of necessary goods such as food be kept low enough so that the families of the nation can buy them in sufficient quantities to maintain health and strength; (c) that prices and wages be prevented from rising rapidly, thus throwing us into dangerous inflation.

### Call for Statesmanship

It will be hard to accomplish all three results at the same time. The problem calls for statesmanship, but not superhuman statesmanship. The English and Canadians have met the problem successfully. We have not dealt with it satisfactorily in this country. One explanation is that, as was pointed out in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER last week, certain groups of the population have scrambled for gain, heedless of the consequences to the nation as a whole. At the same time, the Roosevelt administration has fumbled with the problem, has been indecisive and weak. And Congress has been obstructive, has listened to pressure groups, has failed to support administration policies, and has developed no clear-cut policies of its own.

The continuous price rises not only threaten inflation but they are producing serious labor unrest. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor reports that the cost of living—that is, the cost of the various essential articles which families must have—rose a little more than 20 per cent from January, 1941, to February, 1943. Official figures for the period since February are not yet available but it is well known that there have been further advances. Probably the cost

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U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES  
Prelude to invasion—intensified bombing of the continent

## What Is the Matter?

By Walter E. Myer

I was talking the other day with a disillusioned citizen who had some pretty hard things to say about certain qualities of American character. We discussed the gasoline shortage and the waste of gas which still continues despite repeated appeals that all unnecessary driving be stopped. "The people were put on their honor," said my friend, "and what did they do? They did exactly as they always do under such circumstances. They failed to live up to the requirements of honor. They went ahead with their unnecessary driving. The moment it was announced that there would be no more arrests for needless driving, out rolled the cars from the garages, and millions rejoiced that they could again do as they pleased."

The embittered citizen produced further evidence to prove his case, and some of it bothered me. I could not deny that the honor system as applied to automobile driving had proved disappointing. I had to admit that too many citizens seem heedless of their civic obligations. But I could not agree with my friend that the American people are "without honor." In my opinion that is not the proper charge to make against them. James Boyce, the English political scientist, put his finger more accurately on the fault which afflicts so many of us, when he wrote, more than a generation ago, about "the fatalism of the multitude."

The individual sees himself as a part of a great multitude. "What do I matter among all these millions?" he thinks. "What difference will it make if I use a few extra gallons of gasoline? That won't affect the national supply very much. And if I do not do all that is expected of me, who will see the difference?" This individual would not fail his country if he could see a big and immediate effect of his acts. But he loses himself in the multitude and excuses his sins of commission or omission with the assumption that they are, after all, trivial.

But though this theory explains, it does not excuse, those who fail in their duty when put upon their honor. A nation cannot be permanently great unless its citizens are worthy, unless the individual does his part, unless all citizens use their powers, great or small, in harmony with the common good and the national purposes. If the American people, or any people, insist on the right of each to be a "rugged individualist," pursuing his own selfish ends on the theory that what he does will not hurt the country much, the nation will in time disintegrate. A nation will be strong, not if millions of individuals within it are hurting the common cause ever so little, but only if each, in his own way and in keeping with his talents and opportunities, is helping a little. There is no greater obligation than that which rests upon each citizen, from school days on through life, to fill worthily the niche in which he finds himself.

## Churchill-Roosevelt Map War Strategy

**Conclusion of African Campaign Brings Invasion of European Continent Closer**

### ATTENTION ON FAR EAST

**U. S. Move in Aleutians Seen as Prelude to Greater Activity Against Japan**

With the spectacular conclusion of the war in Africa, the Second World War has reached what Winston Churchill once called a new "climacteric"—that is, a turning point, a decisive stage. The phase through which we are now passing may be compared in importance to that which followed the surrender of France and the evacuation of the British armies at Dunkirk; to the unsuccessful German Battle against Britain in the fall of 1940; to the entrance of Russia into the war and the mighty Battle of Stalingrad. Henceforth the war will take new turns, will enter decisive stages which will indeed determine its duration.

Now, for the first time since the summer of 1940, when Italy entered the conflict, the continent of Africa is quiet and completely in control of the United Nations. Now, for the first time since that fateful summer, the Mediterranean is relatively safe for Allied shipping, thus drawing us thousands of miles closer to India and the Far East and thus shortening our supply route to the Middle East and Russia. And now for the first time in the war, the United Nations are in a position to assume the offensive in all theaters.

### Rising Tempo of War

That the tempo of the war was being increased was apparent last week in the news from the far-flung battle fronts. The air assaults on the continent, on Hitler's "Fortress Europe," were intensified to the point that raid after raid had to be called the "biggest yet." From bases in the British Isles, from securely held bases in Africa, and from Russia, deadly bombers of the United Nations dropped thousands of tons of bombs upon enemy and enemy-held territory.

All Europe was on the alert last week following the victory in Tunisia. Rumors and counter-rumors flew thick and fast. It was said that the King of Italy had abdicated; that the Nazis were withdrawing from Italy, leaving that hapless country to its fate and fortifying themselves at the Brenner Pass. Again, it was rumored that Turkey was about to enter the war on the side of the Allies, opening the way for an invasion of the continent through the Balkans. The big question on everyone's lips was: "When and where will the invasion of the continent take place?"

Nor was Europe the only scene of intensified activity last week. In the

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## Books for Summer Reading

The following list of books may help you decide what you want to read this summer. All these books are current, and all have been chosen with an eye to variety and readability, and to informational value.

### THE WAR AND AFTER:

*One World*, by Wendell Willkie (New York: Simon and Schuster. \$2 in cloth; \$1 with paper cover.) The man who has seen perhaps more than any other living person of our fighting globe and its leaders tells his ideas on the social trends and problems stirred up by the war.

*Make This the Last War*, by Michael Straight (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$3.) One man's view of what we are fighting for, what we should be fighting for, and our chances of making a better world when peace comes.

*The Peace We Fight For*, by Hiram Motherwell (New York: Harpers. \$3.) A realistic picture of the kind of Europe we will have to deal with when the Nazi hordes are beaten.

*Journey Among Warriors*, by Eve Curie (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran. \$3.50.) The brilliant daughter of scientist Marie Curie is the most-traveled woman correspondent of this war. From the rich background of what she has seen all over the fighting world, she writes her impressions and conclusions about the changes this war is bringing.

*The Road We Are Traveling, and Goals for America*, by Stuart Chase (New York: Twentieth Century Fund. \$1 each.) One of our best-known economists outlines America's most likely post-war problems and suggests what to do about them.

*Journey for Margaret*, by W. L. White (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.) A fine picture of the British people under fire, plus the story of a little war orphan's rescue by a foreign correspondent.

*They Were Expendable*, by W. L. White (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$2.) The epic tale of a motor torpedo boat squadron in the Philippine campaign.

*Queens Die Proudly*, by W. L. White (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.) Flying-Fortress-eye view of our turbulent Pacific battle fronts.

*The Flying Tigers*, by Russell Whelan (New York: Viking Press. \$2.50.) The colorful history of the American Volunteer Group flyers in China.

*Guadalcanal Diary*, by Richard Tregaskis (New York: Random House. \$2.50.) Day-to-day life in the midst

of *From the Land of Silent People*, by Robert St. John (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran. \$3.) A war correspondent describes the shattering campaign in Yugoslavia, Greece, and Crete, and its effect upon the peoples of this region.

*People Under Hitler*, by Wallace R. Deuel (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$3.50.) A careful study of what Hitler's regime has done to the German people.

*Mission to Moscow*, by Joseph E. Davies (New York: Simon and Schuster. \$3. Also available in the Pocket Book edition for 25 cents.) Our former ambassador gives his observations on Russia and the men who are molding her future.

*Russia*, by Sir Bernard Pares. (New York: Penguin. 25 cents.) A brief, vivid, and inexpensive account of Russia's recent history by a noted British writer.

*The Russians: The Land, the People, and Why They Fight*, by Albert Rhys Williams (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$2.) Every aspect of Soviet life, carefully described and analyzed.

*Round Trip to Russia*, by Walter Græbner (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. \$3.) A lively account of Soviet



Return to Stalingrad

ways, as seen by a visiting writer. Ample illustrated.

*We're in This With Russia*, by Wallace Carroll (Boston: Houghton Mifflin. \$2.) An exceptionally fresh and individual book of conclusions on the Soviet Union by a correspondent who covered the country from Archangel to the Caucasus.

*A Latin American Speaks*, by Luis Quintanilla (New York: MacMillan. \$2.50.) A strong plea for hemisphere solidarity by a brilliant and engaging writer from below the Rio Grande.

*The Pageant of South American History*, by Anne Merriman Peck (New York: Longmans, Green. \$3.) A beautifully illustrated and thoroughly fascinating history of our continental twin.

*South American Primer*, by Katherine Carr (New York: Reynal and Hitchcock. \$1.75.) Basic facts on the peoples and nations of Latin America.

### AMERICANA:

*Citizen Tom Paine*, by Howard Fast. (New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce. \$2.75.) An exciting, fictionalized biography of Thomas Paine—one of the men upon whose ideas the American system rests.

*George Washington Carver*, by Rackham Holt (New York: Doubleday, Doran. \$3.50.) The life story of a great American whose skills set new milestones in scientific progress.

*The Year of Decision*, by Bernard DeVoto (Boston: Little, Brown and Company. \$3.50.) An exceptionally fine historical study of the year 1846, when our nation was in a vital period of growth and change.

*The Roots of American Culture*, by Constance Rourke (New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$3.) A collection of short pieces on how the arts grew in America and reflected the great events of our history—colorfully written.

*Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*, by Esther Forbes (Boston: Houghton Mifflin \$3.75.) Here is the real Paul Revere, and the New England of Revolutionary days.

*Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Samuel Eliot Morison (Boston: Little, Brown and Company. \$3.50.) Christopher Columbus—a biography of the daring navigator whom we honor as the discoverer of the American continents.



A soldier and his war dog

## Dogs in the War

WAR dogs accompany Coast Guardmen who patrol key points of the nation's shore line. In the Army, a well-trained dog carrying a reel of telephone wire can run ahead of a communications squad, letting the wire unroll as he dashes along. Airedales sometimes carry messages in the Canadian army. Every armed force throughout the world, in fact, is making some use of dogs. Our own Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines are training thousands of dogs, and already have a good many in service. All the dogs are recruited through Dogs for Defense, a civilian organization, and the training is carried on under a single program with all the services taking part.

The dogs who are to become WAAGS in the K-9 Corps (their unofficial nicknames) must meet stricter qualifications than are required of fighting men themselves. Although a large number of breeds are acceptable, each dog must have intelligence plus the willingness to learn and use new knowledge. A few special obedience tests give a pretty good idea of whether a dog meets this standard.

The second important qualification is size—the dog cannot be too small

for the job, and some exceptionally large dogs may also be disqualified. Finally, sharp nose and ears are necessary, because guard dogs are expected to hear or smell danger that they cannot see.

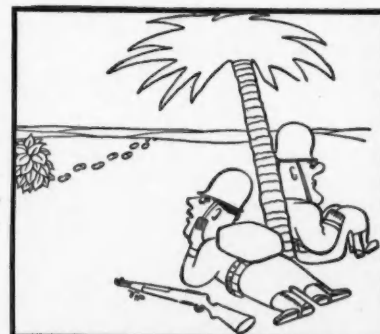
The recruits are given a scientific course of training by several hundred experts, who also instruct the men selected from the armed forces to be dog handlers. The schooling starts out with simple obedience commands, and the dogs learn to obey even when their masters are out of sight. Exercises in jumping develop the dogs until they can scale a wall at least seven feet high and clear obstacles over 12 feet in width. The art of fetching is practiced as the first lesson in learning how to search for wounded soldiers on a battlefield.

The most difficult thing for most dogs to learn is to attack a man upon command. But most of them become so proficient that it is too bad for the foe who tries to resist. The dogs also learn how to growl silently so that their human companion can take warning from the vibration of their throats. And they become expert at following special scents, even though stronger and confusing scents cross their path.

## SMILES

"Why is a chicken crossing a road like a burglary?"  
"I give up."  
"It is a fowl proceeding."  
—SCRIPPAGE

Announcer: "And here is the nine o'clock news at five minutes past nine for the benefit of those thousands of listeners who usually rush to switch on the news at just about this time."  
—PUNCH



"Tell me, Ed—do you know much about botany?"  
PARTCH IN COLLIER'S

A Norwegian farmer who owned 30 hens was ordered to deliver their eggs to Gestapo headquarters. Two weeks later he wrote the Gestapo:

"Your order was posted in the hen house, so that the hens themselves could see it. When, in spite of this, they refused to lay, I had them shot for sabotage against the Reich."  
—YANK

The sergeant had his troubles with one of the recruits. The more the sergeant shouted at him the more blandly unconcerned was the recruit.

"Doesn't anything I say make any difference?" demanded the sergeant. "No," said the recruit. "Before this I was a baseball umpire—I'm used to it."  
—MONITOR

An employee, guiding a guest through a Detroit newspaper plant, was explaining the city room layout.

"On this side are the reporters. They write, but can't spell. On that side are the copyreaders. They spell, but can't write."  
—MONITOR

When he pauses for applause and none comes, the seasoned orator will go on to remark how gratifying it is to find the citizens in this thoughtful mood.  
—Milwaukee JOURNAL



Women war workers in Russia  
(FROM "ROUND TRIP TO RUSSIA.")

of one of this war's toughest engagements.

*Victories of Army Medicine*, by Edgar Erskine Hume (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. \$3.) An Army doctor describes some of the thrilling victories won by military medicine and science.

### OUR GLOBAL NEIGHBORS:

*Behind the Face of Japan*, by Upton Close (New York: Appleton-Century. \$4.) Japan's dramatic past, and how it has led her to stake everything on a chance for power and empire.

*Report from Tokyo*, by Joseph Grew (New York: Simon and Schuster. \$1.50 in cloth; \$1 with paper cover.) Our former ambassador to Japan explains the Japanese menace and how we can overcome it.

*Years of Blindness*, by H. G. Quaritch Wales (New York: Crowell. \$3.) A man who knows Asia from long years of living there analyzes white rule in the east and finds the key to its decline.

*Lands Down Under*, by C. Hartley Grattan (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations. 40 cents.) A pamphlet study of Australia and New Zealand.



# Nation Comes to Grips with Inflation

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of living is now about 23 per cent above the figure of January, 1941.

When wage figures are examined, it may appear that workers have no cause for complaint, for wages as well as prices have advanced. George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, says that wages have gone up 15 per cent since January, 1941, but most students of the situation put the figure considerably higher than that. The National Industrial Conference Board reports that the wage increases in the manufacturing industries from January, 1941, to February, 1943, averaged nearly 30 per cent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the figure at about 23 per cent.

## Increase in Wages

It is probable that wages in general have gone up as much since we entered the war as the cost of living has. But that is not the whole story. While the prices of all the items which together make up the cost of living have advanced 20 to 23 per cent, the cost of food, which figures so largely in the workingman's expenses, has risen by as much as 40 per cent. In certain cities, food costs have gone up much more than that.

Nor is that all. Certain staple foods, used extensively by poorer families, foods such as cabbage, string beans, potatoes, eggs, lard, pork loin, hamburger, and bacon, have risen drastically in price. Some of these foods have more than doubled in price.

Now a family may be paying no more for rent and relatively little more for clothing than it paid two years ago, but there will be bitter complaint if, when the housewife goes to market, she is obliged to pay 40 to 100 per cent more for essential

wage boosts, and we shall be in the midst of inflation.

One way to deal with the present inflationary trend is to attack prices directly; to hold them down and even to reduce some of them. The Office of Price Administration is now making a determined effort to follow this plan. It has announced a more vigorous policy of price control than heretofore. Up to the present, everyone admits, the enforcement of price ceilings has not always been effective. The rules have provided that no store could raise the price it had been charging for any item. But the prices above which no article could be sold have not been fixed in dollars and cents so that customers could see what the ceiling price was. Hereafter all articles are to be listed, with their ceiling prices in dollars and cents so that anyone can see and



Back to earth, boys!

TALBURY IN WASHINGTON NEWS

report a sale which is above the authorized price. Inasmuch as the dollars-and-cents prices will be published in the newspapers, it will be relatively easy for housewives to check on violations of the ceilings.

## OPA Program

In addition, the Office of Price Administration has announced that it will double the number of enforcement officers. The assistance of more volunteer groups will also be sought. It is generally estimated that this change in the rules and more rigid enforcement policy will result in a reduction of five per cent in average food prices.

Moreover, plans for "rolling back" certain prices are also under way. The price administrator has announced that on June 1, the price of seven articles will be reduced 10 per cent. These articles include beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, coffee, and butter.

This combined program promises to meet two aspects of the threefold problem to which reference was made at the beginning of this article. It will help to reduce prices of food to consumers and it will tend, for that reason, to make wage increases unnecessary and unjustifiable. Thus it will help to ward off inflation.

But if the program as outlined were to stand alone, it would aggravate rather than help to solve the third aspect of the problem. For if those who sell food must cut their prices, they must also cut the prices which they pay to the farmers for the food products. That would tend



Shoot!

FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

to discourage the production of food by farmers, and if production were cut, the scarcity of essential foods, already serious in certain cases, would become even more severe.

## Subsidy Program

To meet this situation the OPA is adding another point to its program. It announces a plan of government subsidies to dealers in food products. This is the way the plan will work: The dealer—or processor—buys hogs, cattle, vegetables, or other food products from the farmer, paying him enough to furnish a profit. But in selling the prepared product to the grocer, he can charge only a fixed price; in certain cases insufficient to make ends meet. Here is where the subsidy enters the picture. It is payment from the government to the meat packer, the coffee roaster, the vegetable canner to cover the loss he sustains by meeting the new price levels.

Money for the subsidy plan will be obtained from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but eventually it must come from the taxpayers' pockets. The payments will be made only to the processors of articles the price of which has been rolled back, and with items now covered are estimated to cost between \$300,000,000 and \$500,000,000 a year. As new items are added, the cost of the subsidy will increase. Eventually it may run as high as \$2,000,000,000 or \$3,000,000,000 a year.

This subsidy plan has become the subject of sharp controversy in many quarters. It is opposed in two

that Great Britain uses the subsidy system and uses it more extensively than is now announced for this country. He says that there the plan "always has been to see that the farmer, the importer, and the distributor got enough money to assure the supply, and that the consumer got his ration at a fixed price. The difference has been made up by the government. In 1942, it cost the government \$600,000,000. To perform the same operation here (because of our larger population) would cost perhaps \$2,000,000,000. This is a small sum to pay for stability in wartime, and in any event there is no other way yet devised by man which can bring about the kind of stability which is needed."

The New York Times represents those groups which oppose the subsidy plan altogether. This policy, says the Times, insures the farmers more money, and, at the same time, leaves more in the pockets of consumers. It gives everyone more purchasing power. But there is no increase in the amount of goods available for purchase. And when people have more money to spend, without more goods to be bought, there will always be a scramble to buy, and that will force prices up. This is the real danger of inflation. It may be postponed for a time, contends the Times, but the flood of purchasing power will eventually break the dam.

## Congress Holds Key

Friends of the subsidy plan agree with this viewpoint; that is, that there is always danger of inflation when the people have more money to spend than there are things to be bought. But they say that Congress holds the key to that problem. It could, if it saw fit, levy higher taxes so as to drain away the excess of money that people have above their living needs. This, it is argued, could be done without upsetting the subsidy plan to encourage farm production and to stabilize prices and wages.

Congress has not yet shown a disposition really to grapple with the problem of inflation and taxes, and so long as it dodges that issue, there will be danger of inflation, whatever the OPA may or may not do.

Whatever course may be chosen, it is imperative that the program be a success. The alternative—spiraling living costs, strikes to secure wages which will meet those costs, and

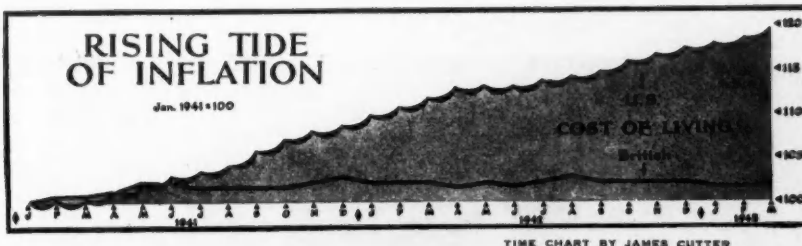


Rolling back the rising tide

SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

foods than she paid a few years or even months ago. In a case like that, there will be demands for higher wages—demands so insistent that they cannot be ignored.

It seems certain, therefore, that if price rises, particularly in foods, are not checked, there will be increasingly insistent demands for wage increases. If the demands are refused, there will be labor disturbances so serious as to interfere with the war effort. If the demands are granted, costs of production in industry will be advanced, prices will have to be increased even further to cover the increased costs. The rising prices will lead to still further demands for



quarters—by those who think the program does not go far enough and by those who oppose the principle of subsidy altogether. Mr. Meany of the American Federation of Labor represents the former point of view when he says that prices should be reduced much more than the OPA plans to reduce them and that the "roll back" should be applied to a larger number of items in the ordinary household food budget.

Walter Lippmann points to the fact

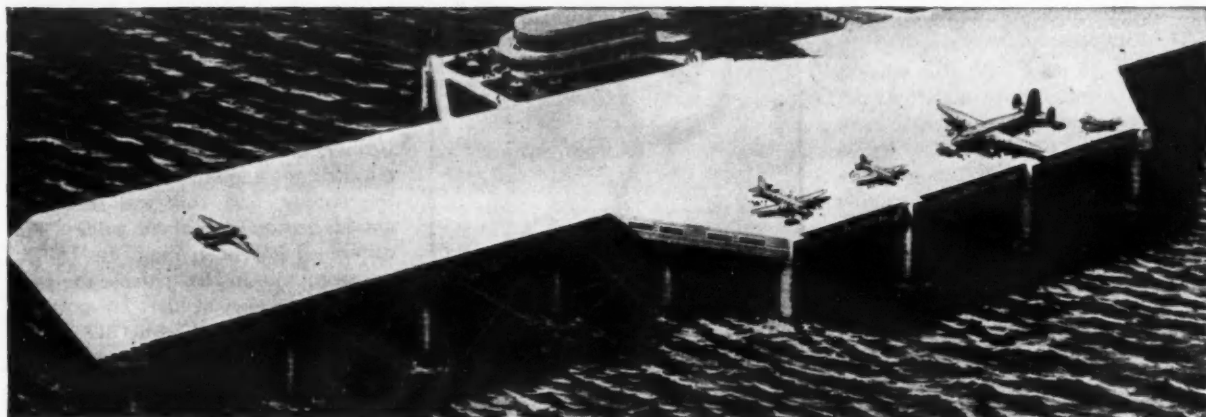
faltering food and war production—would seriously imperil the entire war program.

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- "Prices on Food Staples Must Be Rolled Back," by George Meany. *Vital Speeches*. May 15, 1943, pp. 455-457.
- "Cost of Living." *U. S. News*. May 7, 1943, pp. 44-46.



# The Story of the Week



Seadromes would make it possible for transport planes to cross the Atlantic in easy hops

## Wage Dispute

As this paper goes to press the mine wage dispute is still far from being settled, and it appears possible that President Roosevelt himself may have to intervene before a settlement is reached.

A few days ago there were signs that the crisis was moving toward a solution. Economic Stabilization Director Byrnes issued a directive to WLB, granting the Board power to "correct gross inequities in wages" and to make adjustments which "will aid in the prosecution of the war." Since the President's "hold the line" order in April, WLB had felt that its hands were tied in considering any demands for wage increases; thus the Byrnes order seemed to free WLB for action again. It proceeded to order resumption of direct negotiations between the miners and the operators.

But John L. Lewis refused to recognize WLB as having any authority over the dispute, and refused to negotiate unless ordered to do so by National Coal Administrator Ickes; Ickes, at the last minute, persuaded Lewis to extend the truce through May 31.

## Food Conference

In a heavily guarded area in Hot Springs, Virginia, delegates from 43 nations are now discussing what is certain to be one of the major problems of the postwar world—food. Although details of their debate must

wait for publication until after the end of the conference, a few general ideas they are considering are known.

The most important is a suggestion for an official, international food administration which would govern production and distribution of food on a world-wide scale. Such a super-agency would go into action now, and continue its work through the first difficult months after the armistice.

## Ruml Plan

After long weeks of bitter debate and shifting decisions in Congress, it now appears likely that some form of tax forgiveness plus a withholding tax may be on the statute books as law by the time this paper reaches its readers. There is a strong possibility, moreover, that the Ruml plan, with only slight modifications, may be embodied in that law.

As this is written there are two forms of the tax forgiveness bill in existence. The House has twice turned down the Ruml plan (once by only four votes), and has passed instead a bill calling for forgiveness of three-fourths of the 1942 tax. The Senate, however, has revived the badly battered Ruml plan and with strong Republican support has passed it by a vote of 49 to 30. This bill, of course, has now gone back to the House for its consideration. In view of the extremely close vote before in the House, Republican leaders are now confident that they can secure approval of the Senate version,

granting 100 per cent forgiveness of last year's tax.

There is still one more gauntlet which the Ruml plan must run before it becomes law—the President's approval or veto. President Roosevelt is known to oppose tax cancellation, and he has threatened to reject the bill.

## Trade Pacts

Last week the Senate Finance Committee began consideration of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. The question at issue is whether the act should be renewed again, as it was in 1937 and 1940 (see THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, May 10). Those in favor of extending the act have argued that failure to pass it, or even passage by a narrow margin, would be interpreted by other nations as a sign of resurging isolationism in this country.

The act has already won half its victory—the House of Representatives passed it a few days ago by a resounding vote of 342 to 65. It was a nonpartisan vote, with members of both parties giving support. However, it is apparent that opponents of low tariffs and opponents of the administration in general are intent on weakening executive control over trade agreements. Approval in the House was limited to two years, instead of the three years formerly granted. Moreover, Republican opponents of the bill attempted, although in vain, to add numerous amendments which would have prevented further tariff reductions, or which would have given Congress greater veto power over the agreements.

## Strategy in China

Both land and air actions in China, last week, pointed up the differing views on the strategy which should be employed against Japan. As Major General Claire L. Chennault sees it, China should be turned into a vast airdrome for bombing Japan. The enemy doubtless recognizes the possibility, for last week it carried out the biggest raid thus far against an American air base in China. But the pilots of the air forces in China, commanded by General Chennault, were ready, and shot down 15 of the 60 planes, as well as seriously damaging 10 others.

The other view, championed by Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell, is that the best way to get at the Japanese is to attack them in Burma. On the whole, it favors more

traditional methods of warfare, such as were encountered last week in ground action between Chinese and Japanese around the Tungting Lake region of southeastern China.

## Business Leader Speaks

Eric A. Johnston, who was recently reelected president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, expresses the spirit by which America can move forward toward ever greater feats of accomplishment. He says:

"There is a growing realization that only as the whole country prospers can business prosper; that the welfare of business is tied in with the welfare of labor and agriculture. There is a growing realization by business that the day of unbridled capitalism is past; that as our civilization becomes more complex, greater controls become essential. It is important that we should not allow our conflicts over methods of control to keep us from the unity we must have, among all segments of our economic life, if we are to gain the full measure of benefits which the capitalistic system can yield. . . .

"We know that our capitalistic system is the best that has been de-



Eric A. Johnston

vised. We must work together—labor, business, agriculture—to preserve it."

## Saboteur Invasion

Up to this point, the Federal Bureau of Investigation boasts a perfect record against foreign sabotage. A recent FBI bulletin points to the fact that no single enemy-directed act of sabotage has been successful in this war. But now our government expects a new wave of sabotage attempts, and warns that if the record is to be maintained, every citizen must serve as an individual listening post for the FBI.

Germany's rigid school for saboteurs is about to let loose a new crop of graduates. As the Axis is driven farther and farther back on the battlefield, these men will open up their secret offensive. Whether or not it is successful depends upon the watchfulness of individual Americans.

In his appeal to the public, J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, listed three rules for citizen cooperation. First—be observant. Second, don't fail to turn in an item because you believe someone else is going to reg-



GUARDING THE NATION. A two-man gun crew keeps in practice in the vital job of manning one of the many modern guns protecting Washington, D. C., against possible air raids. The gun is a Bofors 40 MM antiaircraft weapon.



ister it. The third FBI rule is: don't be afraid any information you may have will be too insignificant. You may have just the detail the G-men need to complete their case against a dangerous enemy.

### Prisoners of War

The large numbers of prisoners taken at the end of the Tunisian campaign may represent a double victory for the United Nations. The War Department is now working with the War Food Administration on a plan for using captured Italians to cultivate and harvest American crops.

In England, many Italian prisoners have already proved themselves good farmers and willing workers. In this country, they would be quartered at internment camps near large farming projects. Most likely sites for such camps are the fruit and vegetable raising sections of the South and Southwest, and New Jersey's truck gardening regions.

Prisoners of war who indicate willingness to work are paid according to a formula agreed upon in the Geneva Convention. While many Italians seem eager to return to non-military occupations, not many German prisoners are willing to cooperate with their captors.

### Sweden on Edge

Holding on to neutrality in the midst of a warring continent has been Sweden's problem for almost four years. Although Swedish sympathy is believed to be solidly behind the United Nations, the little Scandinavian country's position, surrounded by Axis conquests and alliances, has forced a number of concessions from the Swedish people. They have permitted Germany to import their iron ore. They have not protested too loudly at minor boundary violations.

As the news of Allied victory in Africa echoes over Europe, however, tension has been mounting in Sweden. The Swedish government has grown impatient at the continued transporting of German soldiers across its territory on the way to and from Norway. There have been street incidents where Swedish Nazis were stoned and beaten. And the people pointedly show their attitude by keeping John Steinbeck's anti-fascist play about Norway, "The Moon Is Down" the most popular



"CHINA'S DESTINY." Seated at his desk Chiang Kai-shek reads a copy of his new book, "China's Destiny," which is being translated into English.

theater fare of the present season.

In spite of growing belief that a United Nations invasion of Europe is about to come, Sweden's leaders are still trying to keep to the "middle way" of the last four years, while quietly building up defenses in case of attack. When public unrest was at its peak just after the fall of Tunisia, Foreign Minister Christian E. Geunther openly restated Sweden's policy—to stay out of the war, by the use of force if necessary.

### Radio "Must"

"For This We Fight"—a series of radio broadcasts which promise to be of outstanding interest and importance—begins June 5, Saturday, 7:00-7:30 P.M. EWT, over the NBC and its independent affiliated stations. On these programs, outstanding American leaders of thought—statesmen, businessmen, labor and

farm leaders, educators, and scientists—will discuss the world of tomorrow for which we are fighting today.

This series will be heard on 26 continuous Saturday evenings, and will be presented by NBC's Inter-American University of the Air. Two national organizations are arranging the programs—the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace and the Twentieth Century Fund. They suggest that students as well as teachers and other groups meet regularly in private homes or elsewhere to listen to and discuss these broadcasts.

For background material, these two organizations have published study and discussion manuals. One is "Your Stake in the Peace," by the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, 8 West 40th Street, New York City; the other is "War-time Facts and Postwar Problems," published by the Twentieth Century

## News Items in Brief

Man-made islands called seadromes may be sprinkled along the transoceanic air routes of tomorrow. One of the big air lines, the Pennsylvania-Central, is so convinced that floating steel bases are practical, it plans to build three of them—at 800-mile intervals—between the United States and Britain.

Eleven new United States postage stamps will pay honor to the people

of occupied nations in Europe for their heroic resistance to the Axis. The countries are Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, and Austria. An unusual feature of the stamps will be the reproduction in colors of the flag of each nation.

The U. S. Navy has developed a substance which will drive sharks away from men cast adrift in shark-infested waters. Nothing of the nature of the shark-repellent, however, is being revealed.

Portable pipe lines to carry gasoline to motorized units in the field are in use by the Army. Each self-contained, half-mile unit is complete with a pump driven by a 20-horsepower gasoline engine. It can be moved by truck and can be used independently of other units.

During the first three months of this year, one-tenth of the nation's available food supplies went to our Allies. According to lend-lease officials, this included one of every 100 pounds of beef and veal; 18 of every 100 pounds of lamb and mutton; nearly 13 of every 100 pounds of pork; about 15 of every 100 eggs; almost 17 of every 100 pounds of dried beans; and 22 of every 100 pounds of dried fruit.

Fund, 330 West 42nd Street, New York. Also, printed texts of each program, with study questions and references, may be had in single copies free of charge by writing to either of these organizations. Quantities for group use will be supplied at cost.

### Secret Weapon

Perhaps the most sensational "secret weapon" of this war is radar. This strange word—kept a mystery until quite recently—means Radio Detection And Ranging. It describes the new way in which our forces find enemy planes and ships in spite of fog, clouds, storms, or darkness.

Radar, according to the War and Navy Departments, "is one of the marvels made possible by the electron tube. Ultra high-frequency waves traveling with the speed of light can be focused, scanning the air and sea. When they strike an enemy ship or airplane they bounce back.

"Radio waves travel at a constant speed of 186,000 miles a second. Thus a small amount of time is required for such signals to travel to a reflecting surface and return to a receiver, so that, with means provided for measuring this time interval, it is possible to determine the distance to a given target."

This scientific magic has been



A FULL TUMMY, thanks to the American Red Cross. This Polish youngster literally hugs an armload of bread made from flour supplied by the American Red Cross. His smile is in anticipation of enough to eat which he wouldn't have had if he'd stayed in his native Poland instead of evacuating to Russia.

serving the United Nations for some time. In the Battle of Britain, radar located attacking planes long enough in advance that the RAF and ground defenses had time to get ready for them.

With this issue, The American Observer completes the current school year and subscriptions for the second semester period expire with this issue. The American Observer, however, is published during the entire calendar year. This year many high schools will remain in session during the summer and we hope that teachers will continue their use of The American Observer. We also hope that many of our readers will continue their study of current history through the columns of our paper. The summer subscription price, in clubs of five or more, is three cents a copy a week. Single subscriptions, or clubs of less than five, are 50 cents for the summer period, payable in advance. This includes issues of the paper for May 31 and for the months of June and July and the first three weeks of August.

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# War Enters New Phase After African Campaign

(Concluded from page 1)

North Pacific, American forces were locked in battle with the Japanese who have occupied the island of Attu, one of the Aleutian group. Seized a year ago by the Japanese, Attu occupies an extremely important strategic position. If the campaign is successful, the Americans will be able to move against the island of Kiska, 172 miles eastward and bring the entire Aleutian group into the hands of the United States. What role this chain of islands stretching across the North Pacific will eventually play in the war is, of course, not known, but many people see in them the highway by which Japan will one day be invaded.

this page shows, the avenues of invasion are numerous. The Allied armies may attempt to gain a foothold on the continent through Norway, or they may make a frontal attack across the channel to Belgium, the Netherlands, or France. The Mediterranean offers several possibilities—an attack upon Italy, which seems to be generally expected, or an assault upon southern France. The Balkans offer another invasion route. Any one of these, or several of them at the same time, may become the scenes of deadly battle before the summer is over. There are many who feel that simultaneous raids will be made against several of them,

Japan will have time to strengthen herself in her new possessions and will be increasingly difficult to overpower. The fact that China is becoming weaker all the time strengthens this position.

It may well be that the fighting on Attu Island marks the beginning of a new drive against the Japanese, for this is the first extensive battle between our forces and our Pacific enemy since the ending of large-scale fighting in New Guinea in January.

As the whole world awaits the gigantic events which are now taking shape, there is considerable stock-taking of our strength and the enemy's weakness as revealed by the

standpoint of future battles is the fact that they did not fight to the bitter end. They put up no such resistance as our soldiers did on Bataan, as the Russians did at Stalingrad, as the British did at Dunkirk. Their resistance collapsed overnight and they surrendered in droves. Frank L. Kluckhohn, New York Times correspondent with the African armies, interprets this cracking up as follows:

## Germans Under Fire

Let us boil it down to a fact—that the Germans did not fight well with the odds against them. Many of them, moreover, were the Germans who appeared to many invincible when they crushed Poland, France, and Greece with the odds in their favor. That is what it comes down to. When the typical German becomes convinced that he cannot win, he will not fight. . . .

From what this writer can gather, the German has been schooled in war and has fought until his enthusiasm has gone. He is a perfect soldier with regard to technique, both individually and en masse. He is brave enough when he thinks he stands a chance to win, but he lacks the conviction of men with real ideals. He seems to have none of the will to fight when all appears lost that sometimes turns defeat into victory, or at least into glory.

Many people are assuming that because the German armies cracked in Tunisia the rest of the war will be relatively simple. They are recalling the experience of 1918 when, once more, the German resistance collapsed almost overnight. It is indeed possible that the Nazis will cave in like a house of cards once our armies are securely based on the continent and have engaged them in battle in that theater.

It would be the most foolish and dangerous type of wishful thinking to assume that with Tunisia the worst is over and the rest will be relatively simple. The hardest and most trying days of the war lie ahead. Wherever and whenever the attempt is made to storm Hitler's fortress, the cost in blood will be staggering. No matter where the invasion takes place, it will be the most difficult military operation ever undertaken. Whether or not the defenses of the "fortress" are as impregnable as the Nazis would have us believe, a heavy price will be exacted when the invasion takes place and when we move against the heart of the Nazi empire.

Grim as the days ahead may be, the successful conclusion of the war in Africa brings the assurance that victory will be ours. They will not be the black days which followed the fall of France when the invasion of England appeared to be only a matter of days, even hours. Now we have wrested the initiative from the enemy. We are in a position to decide when and where we shall strike, to keep him guessing. And we know that his doom is only a matter of time.

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ADAPTED FROM A MAP IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

While all these moves were taking place on the military fronts, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were conferring at the White House over plans for the next phases of the war. With them were the highest ranking military and naval leaders of the two countries. All the plans for bringing the war to as quick and decisive a conclusion as possible are under consideration at the Washington conferences. As Mr. Churchill explained in a broadcast to the British Home Guards:

"It is no good only having one march ahead laid out. March after march must be planned as far as the human eye can see. Design and forethought must be our guides and heralds. . . . At present we have strong armies in Great Britain and it is the assembly base for the United States armies of liberation coming across the broad Atlantic. But this is not the end. We must prepare for the time which is approaching and will surely come, when the bulk of these armies will have advanced into deadly grapple on the continent."

## Storming the Fortress

Thus the next stage of the war in Europe is almost certain to be the storming of the continent. Where and when the storming will take place is known only to the handful of men who are responsible for the military decisions. As the map on

some designed to be for the purpose of establishing permanent beachheads, others as diversions for the purpose of forcing the enemy to scatter his forces. Until the actual event, however, rumors will continue and speculation will increase.

## Neglected Far East

But the European theater is not the only subject of discussion at the White House conferences. There is reason to believe that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt are devoting considerable attention to the Far East; to ways and means of dealing crippling blows at Japan. The fact that high military leaders from the Far East are in attendance—such men as Sir Archibald Wavell, commander-in-chief of British military forces in India, Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell, commanding general of the China-India-Burma theater, and Major General Claire Chennault, famed chief of the "Flying Tigers" and now commander of the Fourteenth Air Force in China—lends credence to this view.

There are many who feel that so far we have neglected the Far Eastern theater and that we may prolong the war indefinitely if we do not devote more attention toward defeating Japan. They realize that Hitler is a great enemy who must be destroyed, but they say that if all our blows are concentrated on Europe,

Battle of Tunisia. The unexpectedly sudden climax to that struggle has brought out two important facts; the first our ability to deal blow for blow and overpower an enemy trained for years in the art of modern warfare. The second fact, revealed by the sudden collapse of the Axis armies in Tunisia, is that not only are the German armies not invincible but also that they are capable of cracking quickly once the odds are against them.

Tunisia served as a testing ground for the American forces. In the first clashes with the enemy, they were outwitted and often fared badly. They were frequently referred to as "green" and untried. But as the struggle approached the climax, they had learned the lessons of modern war, and both officers and men fought as brilliantly as any soldiers have ever done.

The Tunisian campaign further demonstrated the ability of allies to work together in a common struggle. For in North Africa, it was not a question of the Americans fighting one battle, the British waging another, and the French a third. It was a question of the three groups working like a well-oiled machine and it was due largely to the high degree of cooperation among the Americans, British, and French that the war in Africa ended so suddenly.

Equally encouraging from the



## Schools Aid War Effort

WHEN the first new superbomber rolls off the assembly line at Cleveland's Fisher Bomber Plant, students of Lincoln High School will be on hand to christen it. To buy this plane, which will be named "Spirit of Lincoln," the school Victory Corps has set itself a bond and stamp goal of a million dollars, which it appears certain to reach by the end of the school year.

Four student teams are canvassing Harlem Township in Galena, Ohio, to promote the sale of war bonds and stamps. In only four days of competition, the students averaged almost \$50 apiece in bonds and stamps sold.

The town of Deming, New Mexico, is known as "Bataan Town" because despite its small population, 112 of its male citizens were taken prisoner after the famous Philippine peninsula fell. Commemorating these men last month, Deming High School staged a patriotic program and bond sale. Nearly \$12,000 was realized through this rally. Deming students vary their war effort with different drives each month. This month they are electing a May queen through votes purchased in war stamps.

A one-month jeep drive went over with flying colors at Raft River High School, Malta, Idaho. Ninety-six students collected \$935.52 worth of bonds and stamps—an average per capita contribution of \$9.71.

Franklin Junior High School, Yakima, Washington, has earned the

honor of being one of the first schools awarded the Treasury Department "90 per cent" flag. Franklin students have kept their flag almost two months, with a record of 99.15 per cent in bonds and stamps purchased.

Other Yakima boys and girls are also doing their part for the national effort. Last fall, Yakima High School students devoted a vacation to helping with the apple harvest. Money earned from the work was turned over to bonds and stamps. The school maintains a bond and stamp booth on the premises, and has collected almost \$34,000 since the booth was set up.

Twenty-two jeeps since March 2 is the record set by Wyandotte High School, Kansas City, Kansas. In the entire year, Wyandotte pupils have purchased \$35,211 in bonds and stamps. With a student body of only 150, Oswego High School, also in Kansas, bought six jeeps.

Twelve girls from Eaton Rapids, Michigan, High School sold \$12,407 worth of bonds and stamps in a single week. The girls first canvassed the community, then staged a rally with bonds and stamps as admission tickets.

Home room 236 of Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati has rated 100 per cent on war stamps and bonds since September. With the proceeds, the 39 members have bought two jeeps. The school itself is not far behind home room 236—with an av-



Farm work offers a great opportunity for service

USDA BY FORSYTHE

erage of 99.4 per cent it flies the Treasury Minute Man flag.

When the second war loan drive began, pupils of Grant City High School, Grant City, Missouri, lost no time in getting their sales under way. In five days they had collected \$40,543—one third of the quota set for their entire county.

Astoria High School, Astoria, Oregon, used a contest between classes to boost its bond and stamp sales. Total receipts for the student body of 385 were \$61,482, with members of the junior class in first place.

With a real jeep on display in the auditorium, Houlton High School, Houlton, Maine, launched a one-day jeep campaign. When collections were counted, the students found that

they had bought \$6,425 worth of bonds and stamps—enough for six jeeps.

Halstead, Kansas, High School, with an enrollment of 132, also bought five jeeps with its bond and stamp money. A recent scrap drive brought in \$137, part of which was given to the Junior Red Cross, part invested in war bonds, and part devoted to the purchase of materials for Red Cross projects. In the latter, Halstead boys and girls made games, army bags and kits, and knitted afghans for our soldiers.

In addition to purchasing \$40,000 worth of stamps and bonds this year, the students of Torrington, Connecticut, High School have contributed \$1,176 as an outright gift for the purchase of a fully equipped jeep.

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